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ARMS CASE

Hazari jailed for 7 years

BSS, Chittagong

A court here yesterday sentenced former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Joyal Abedin Hazari of Feni to seven years jail for illegally possessing a foreign-made pistol.

Judge of the Speedy Trial Tribunal Hasan Imam handed down the verdict in a crowded courtroom amid tight security in the afternoon.

Hazari has been absconding since a joint team of police and BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) recovered arms and ammunition from his residence at Mastapara in Feni on August 17, 2001.

According to the prosecution, Hazari possessed a Spanish pistol despite cancelling its licence and the firearm was recovered by the law enforcers from his residence during the drive.

Police filed a case under Section 11(8) of the Arms Act, 2001 against Hazari on October 30 last year. The case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong, for quick disposal.

Court sources said more than 40 cases were filed against the former AL lawmaker since 1970.

On August 10, 2003, a court at Feni sentenced Hazari to seven years imprisonment for possessing illegal firearms.

Tk 607cr fertiliser subsidy finalised

UNB, Dhaka

The government has finalised a Tk 607 crore expanded subsidy plan to make fertilisers available to farmers at lower prices in the current fiscal year.

The agriculture sector has so far been enjoying subsidy for imported urea fertiliser only, but the new plan includes other essential fertilisers—SP, DAP and MOP.

As per the plan, agriculture ministry sources said, these three fertilizers totalling 8.15 lakh tons would get 25 percent subsidy along with the subsidy for urea.

Of the total, 4.15 lakh tons are TSP (including BCIC production of 65,000 tons), DAP 1.5 lakh tons and MOP 2.5 lakh tons. The targets have been determined on the basis of three-year experience on fertiliser use in Bangladesh.

However, the National Coordination Committee on Fertiliser Distribution projected a demand for 5 lakh tons of TSP, 3 lakh tons of DAP and 4.5 lakh tons of MOP.

Necessary formalities to make the fertilisers available to the farmers will be completed by November 15 and the farmers are likely to get the fertilisers at subsidised rates in due time, an official told the news agency yesterday.

"Our target is to meet the demand of the next peak season from January to March," he said.

The agriculture ministry has already formulated the guidelines, which will be published in the newspapers within a day or two to apprise

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Govt inertia to fight Monga slammed

JS body finds post-flood rehabilitation inadequate

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed dissatisfaction at the government inaction to initiate permanent measures to eliminate monga, a near-famine situation that occurs in every September-October in the northwestern region.

The parliamentary standing committee on agriculture ministry at a meeting observed the government's post-flood agricultural rehabilitation programme was inadequate to help the farmers affected by this year's devastating floods.

Last year the government had

promised to start corps diversification programme and undertake projects of small and cottage industries in order to create alternative jobs for the people in the monga-affected districts.

But no step could be taken due to lack of co-ordination between agriculture ministry and the authorities concerned, the committee observed. It said the poor people have lost their capacity of purchasing food as they have no job.

"We are sorry to observe that no step was taken to create alternative jobs for people in the monga-hit region," Committee Chairman Abdul Mannan told reporters after

the meeting held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

The parliamentary body discussed the ongoing monga situation in the northwestern region and asked the government to immediately start the planned financial assistance package for the destitute people.

To make a dent in the near-famine situation, the government on Tuesday decided to extend financial assistance to 500 ultra-poor families in every union of the five worst affected districts after the coming Eid-ul-Fitr.

According to the decision, each

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Khaleda wants BNP's victory in next polls for uplift

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has said the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) needs to return to power again in the next general elections to maintain the continuity of the present development trend.

Addressing the district, upazila and municipality level leaders of the BNP under Chittagong division at the International Conference Centre (ICC) yesterday, Khaleda said the party would get the results of its people-oriented activities in the elections.

She stressed the need for strengthening the party and also maintaining unity among the partymen to work unitedly for the welfare of the nation.

The prime minister said the BNP-led alliance government had

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MASS ARREST

HC asks govt to submit by Nov 3 list of arrestees

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday ordered the government to submit by November 23 a list of those arrested between September 22 and October 3 under Section 86 of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Ordinance.

A HC Division bench comprising Justice MA Matin and Justice ASM Abdul Rahman delivered the ruling on a supplementary affidavit on a petition filed by a number of rights groups on September 29 protesting what they said were indiscriminate

arrests under the section.

Law enforcers drew heavily on the section to carry out the blanket arrests launched on September 22 apparently to quell the opposition uprising, fomenting over the August 21 grenade attacks on an Awami League rally and, in particular, to foil its grand rally in the capital on October 3.

On September 29, acting on the petition of the rights activists, another HC bench had issued an injunction against such indiscriminate mass arrests of opposition adherents and apolitical people

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JS session starts today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 14th session of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad begins today, coinciding with the third anniversary of its journey, with participation of the main opposition Awami League (AL).

The session is likely to be stormy as the main opposition is poised to raise protest over issues like price-hike of essentials, law and order slide and deaths in Rab custody.

The Business Advisory Committee (BAC) sits today at 12:30pm before beginning of the session to fix time and business of the session.

The main opposition Awami League (AL) will join the BAC meeting and demand discussion on several important issues.

The opposition lawmakers have already submitted 48 notices demanding discussions on the issues adjoining the regular business of the House, sources said.

"We will demand discussion on

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Kerry courts middle class; Bush upbeat

AP, Iowa

John Kerry appealed to middle class voters in the election homestretch yesterday, saying President Bush had sold them out to help the wealthy and now wants "four more years so that he can keep up the bad work." Bush put together an end game that included persistent appeals for Democratic votes and a rarely used weapon in this bruising campaign—a positive commercial.

In the mail, on the phone and in courtrooms across the nation, activists, lawyers and partisans of all

kinds intensified their efforts to shape the outcome of next Tuesday's election.

With their agendas laid out, Bush and Kerry were trying to create an aura of excitement in get-out-the-vote rallies, hoping to snag the dwindling pool of voters who haven't taken sides.

Rockers Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi were rejoining the Kerry campaign, minstrels in his fast-moving gallery. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger was bringing his star power—and moderate GOP reputation—to Bush's side

later in the week.

Kerry said Wednesday, "After four years in office, this president has failed middle-class families with almost every choice he's made. He's given more to those with the most at the expense of middle-class working families who are struggling to get ahead."

"Now he's asking you to give him four more years so that he can keep up the bad work," Kerry said in remarks prepared for a rally in Sioux City.

Bush turned to the iconoclastic

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ALLEGED EMAIL THREAT Charge-framing against Partha on Nov 29

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court has fixed November 29 for hearing on charge-framing against Saibal Saha Partha, who was arrested on suspicion of e-mailing the Prothom Alo with a threat to kill the leader of the opposition.

Judge Rabiul Hassan (in-charge) of the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court on Tuesday fixed the date. The same court rejected Partha bail on Sunday.

Intelligence agencies took Partha into their custody on August 25 and handed him over to Dhanmondi

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Sign deal by Oct or lose \$15m loan

Spain warns Bangladesh over dredger purchase credit

RAFIQ HASAN

The government of Spain has threatened to withdraw a soft loan amounting to \$15 million, equivalent to around Tk 90 crore, from Bangladesh if Dhaka fails to sign an agreement by this month for using the money.

The loan was granted in 1998 for buying three dredgers to undertake operations in the rivers for main-

taining their navigability, sources said.

The Spanish embassy in New Delhi in a recent letter asked Bangladesh to sign agreement to receive the money within this month, categorically informing that the loan would be cancelled otherwise.

The prime minister's office also asked the Ministry of Shipping to

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Fleming cracks double ton

SPORTS REPORTER from Chittagong

A wicket with three balls remaining of the day put New Zealand firmly in control of the second Test against Bangladesh at the MA Aziz Stadium here yesterday.

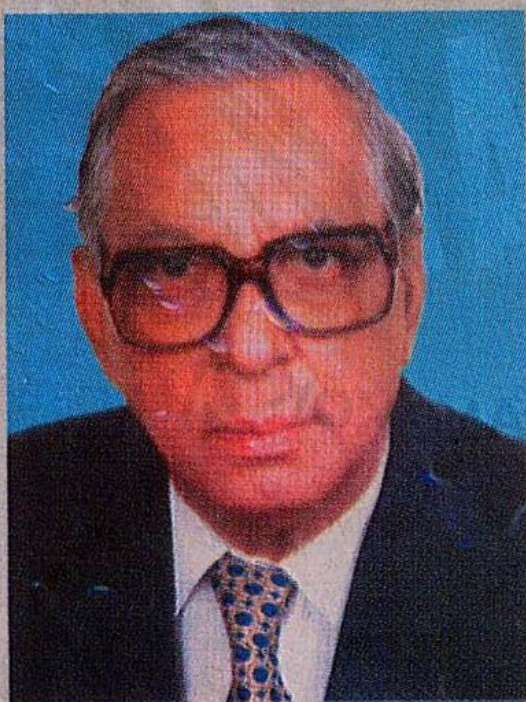
The home side had done reasonably well to reach 82-2 after New Zealand had declared their innings at 545 for six at tea.

But in the last over of the day Rajin Saleh (2) pushed firmly at a ball that pitched outside off-stump when the Bangladesh vice-captain could have safely padded off-spinner Paul Wiseman's delivery away. Matthew Sinclair fielding at silly point took a simple catch and that left Bangladesh going into the

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In Remembrance

2nd Death Anniversary - 28 October 2004



Advocate Serajul Huq

We remember you with deep Love and Respect and In treasured memories.

The Huq Family



ADB VP due today

UNB, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) Vice-President Ligu Jin arrives in Dhaka today on a five-day visit.

During his visit, Jin will meet Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, cabinet members, senior government officials and development partners.

He will also visit the ADB-supported projects for rural livelihood development at Sirganj, Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, Jamuna Bridge railway link and Jamuna Bridge access road.

This is Jin's first visit to Bangladesh since his appointment as vice-president (operations) on August 1, 2003.

The ADB is dedicated to reducing poverty in the Asia and Pacific region through pro-poor sustainable economic growth, social development and good governance.

শুভ উদ্বোধন

প্লাজা এ. আর.

(রাজধানীর সেরা শপিং জোন মীরপুর রোড, ধানমন্ডিতে মোহাম্মদপুর মজলিদের পাশেই)

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